so far, in New Delhi, February 2-4, 1994, in Beijing, April 21-22, 1994, and New Delhi, March 2-4, 1995.

The mandate of the Expert Group includes clarification of the line of actual control (LAC) between India and China, reduction of military forces along the India—China LAC, other confidence building measures and verification methods.

At its second meeting, the two sides reached agreement on the Work Regulations of the Expert Group which spells out the mandate, future tasks and modalities of the Expert Group.

At its third meeting, both sides noted with satisfaction that the situaion along the India—China LAC was peaceful. Continuing their discussions on additional confidence building measures, they had a useful exchange of views on the drafts on prior notification of military exercises and prevention of air intrusions. They also agreed that additional designated points for meetings between the border personnel of the two countries would be established at Nathu La in the Sikkim Sector and a point to be agreed in the Middle Sector of the India—China border areas.

Discussions in the Expert Group are progressing smoothly, with the two sides adopting a constructive and forward-looking approach. The next meeting of the Expert Group will be held in Beijing at a mutually convenient date in 1995.

India's rejection of restrictions on its peaceful nuclear programme

1309. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE. Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently ruled out the possibility of India agreeing to Unilaterally Cap fissile material production or accepting any restriction on its peaceful nuclear programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a statement issued by the official spokesman on the 11th February, 1995, Government has clearly stated that there is no question of India's unilaterally stopping the production of fissible material, or accepting restriction on its programmes for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

US Committee's Report indicting ISI on Kashmir

1310. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU. Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Times of India dated 28th February, 1995 under the caption "Report indicts ISI on Kashmir";

(b) whether the report published by the Committee on International Security studies of American Academy of Arts and Sciences has confirmed India's charge that terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir are getting arms from Pakistan; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up the matter with Government of the USA and raise it in world fora; and if so, the details of the steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have repeatedly emphasized to other countries, including the US, that Pakistan's support to terrorist activiteis in India is continuing with the supply of arms, equipment, training and infiltration. This has also been stated by Indian representatives in international fora.

Visit of the Italian President to India

1311. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Italian President visited India in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with the names of others who accompanied him;

(c) whether this visit was with some objectives;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some issues of bilateral interest were discussed during this visit;

(f) whether India has been benefitted by this visit; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The President of Italy, Mr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, paid a State visit to India from 9-12 February 1995. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli, Minister of State for Foreign Trade Mario D'Urso, senior officials and a high-level business delegation. President Scalfaro interacted with the President and met the Vice President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Commerce Minister and the Miniser of State for External Affairs.

(c) and (d) This was the first ever Head of State level visit exchanged with Italy, and coincided with Italy's participation as "Partner Country" in the India Engineering Trade Fair (IETF) 1995 which was jointly inaugurated by the Presidents of India and Italy;

(e) to (g) The principal focus of discussions during the visit was on expansion of bilateral trade and economic relations. The Italian President underlined Italy's desire to strengthen relations with India in the political economic, scientific and cultural fields. He also stressed the importance of closer cooperation between India and Italy to confront the challenge posed by fundamentalism and terrorism. During talks between the Italian Foreign Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs, views were exchanged on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. The Italian side reiterated their interest in receiving an early visit by the Prime Minister, as well as an Indian cultural manifestation in Italy to coincide with a future high-level visit from India. The visit of the Italian President has imparted further impetus to the intensification of Indo-Italian relations in diverse fields.

Indian Proposal for Non-Discriminatory Nuclear Ban Treaty

1312. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is discriminatory and only favours USA, Russia, UK and France:

(b) whether Government propose to take up with the Committee on Disarmament to start negotiations for a non-discriminatory treaty to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons; and